plemented from 1993-94 with a view to augument the resources of the State Governments. The Scheme include struction of court buildings and re tial accommodation for judges and cial Officers. As per the Scheme State Governments are to contribute an amount equivalent to the amount re leased by the Centre. However, the State Governments are free to spend additional amount over and above the amount required to be spent by them under the Scheme. In case of Union Territories, the expenditure is met fully by the Central Government. An amount of Rs. 232.43 crores has been released to various States/UTs from 1993-94 to 1997-98 under the Scheme.

(c) An amount of Rs. 48 crore has been provided for the Scheme in the current financial year 1998-99.

Additional benches of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

2299. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have created new additional benches of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the number of benches which have become functional; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) One Bench at Rajkot has become functional.

(c) The remaining 14 addl. benches could not become functional for want of suitable office accommodation. Necessary office accommodation for the new benches at Agra, Jodhpur, Visakhapatnam, Goa and Bangalore has already been finalised and these benches are likely to become functional as soon as the work is completed.

Contempt cases in Patna and Ranchi Benches of Patna High Court

2300. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more than 3300 contempt cases in Patna and Ranchi Benches of Patna High Court

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of action contenmpleted to be taken by Government in this conection?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Measures to update obsolete laws

2301. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appear ing in 'The Statesmen', dated the 9th January, 1999, under the caption "Obso lete laws responsible for delays", wherein the Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Shri N. Vittal has come down strongly on the obsolete laws pointing out that 1000 out of 3000 laws in the country belong to the 19th century; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being to do away with or to suitably update such laws to quicken the pace of dipen sation of Justice;

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI THAMBI DURAI): (a) Yes

(b) With the approval of the Prime Minister, Commission on review of administrative Laws under the Chairmanship of Shri P. C. Jain was set up with the objective of:

(i) Undertaking an overview of steps taken by different Ministries/ Departments for the review of laws and regulations;

(ii) Identifying proposals for amendment to laws and regulations having intersectoral impact.

(iii) Examining specific changes in existing rules and procedures in the case of selected economic and social sectors so as to make them transparent and predictable.

Recommendations of the said Commission have since been received and steps are being taken in consultation with the administrative Ministries/Departments for the amendment/repeal of irrelevant and Dysfunctional laws.

उत्तर प्रदेश के राजमार्गों के संबंध में लंबित प्रस्ताव

2302. **प्रो० रामबख्श सिंह वर्मा:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सरकार ने राज्य में सड़क परियोजनाओं हेतु कोई प्रस्ताव अनुमोदन हेतु केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास भेजा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) प्रस्तावों को स्वीकार करने में विलम्ब के क्या कारण है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० देवेन्द्र प्रधान): (क) से (ग) केन्द्र सरकार मुख्य रूप से केवल राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के रूप में घोषित सड़कों के विकास और अनुरक्षण के लिए जिम्मेदार है। राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों को छोड़कर अन्य सड़कों के लिए अनिवार्य रूप से संबंधित राज्य सरकारें जिम्मेदार हैं। तथापि, केन्द्र सरकार, आर्थिक और अन्तर्राज्यीय महत्व की स्कीम तथा केन्द्रीय सड़क निधि के तहत राज्य सड़क परियोजनाओं की कतिपय श्रेणियों के लिए वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराती है। राज्य सरकार से इन दो श्रेणियों के अंतर्गत पिछले कुछ समय में कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

Closure of Indian Road Construction Corporation Ltd.

2303. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to close down Indian Road Construction Corporation Ltd. (IRCC); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details about alternative employment of workers and engineers of the IRCC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Enquiry on land allotments at Kandla Port

2304. SHRI VIYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any enquiry into the complaints of land allotment in Kandla Port in the last five years; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the complaint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two cases that came to the notice of the Government are under investigation.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के रख-रखाव पर खर्च की गयी धनराशि

2305. **श्री डी० पी० यादव:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि: